

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 28, 2002

**SUPREME COURT ASSIGNS JUDGE KARNEZIS TO APPELLATE  
BENCH**

The Illinois Supreme Court on Thursday announced the assignment of Judge Themis N. Karnezis of the Circuit Court of Cook County to the Illinois Appellate Court, effective March 4, 2002.

Judge Karnezis received the highest marks from several bar groups that evaluated his credentials, including the Chicago Council of Lawyers which said it regarded him “as one of the Circuit Court’s best trial judges.”

He was found highly recommended or highly qualified for the Appellate Court by the Council, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois and the Decalogue Society of Lawyers.

Judge Karnezis “is well respected for his integrity, knowledge of law and procedure and fine judicial temperament,” said the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Bar Association “[He] treats lawyers and litigants with respect and enjoys a fine reputation as a hardworking and fair judge.”

Currently, Judge Karnezis sits as the Presiding Judge of the Fourth Municipal District of Cook County in Maywood, where he has continued to conduct hearings and felony cases in addition to his administrative duties.

His assignment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Appellate Justice Francis Barth and will remain in effect until further order of the Supreme Court.

Judge Karnezis was appointed an associate judge in 1982 and was elected to the Circuit Court in 1990.

**MORE**

He served in the Criminal Division from 1984 to 1998 and was one of its most productive judges. He has presided over more than 300 felony jury trials, ruled on over 1,000 felony bench trials and disposed of more than 1,000 cases per year.

In 1998, Judge Karnezis was assigned to the Law Division, where the state's biggest civil cases are heard and presided over 16 jury trials there until he was named Presiding Judge in February 1999.

He was a member of the groundbreaking Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases and has been very active as a faculty member in education seminars for Illinois judges. Most recently, he was an instructor in a special seminar on the Conduct of Death Penalty Cases for Illinois judges, now required for judges who hear capital cases as part of new Supreme Court rules proposed by the Special Committee on Capital Cases.

Judge Karnezis also has lectured and taught at several law schools. He received his law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1970 and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Detroit in June 1965.

He and his wife, Melodie, have eight children and 12 grandchildren.